

NewsBrief

♥For the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford ♥

June 2006

BACCALAUREATE is what we will get to before this column ends. But here in the midst of May, I hear about so many preparing to graduate from Grad Schools, Colleges, High Schools, and yes, even pre-schools. I remember the Beach Boys singing those nostalgic lyrics:

There's a time a for joy, A time for tears, A time we'll treasure through the years,
We'll remember always, Graduation day

Though we leave in sorrow, All the joys we've known, We can face tomorrow,
Knowing we'll never walk alone

When the ivy walks, Are far behind, No matter where our paths may wind,
We'll remember always, Graduation day

Arnold Van Gennep, anthropologist wrote in 1909 that a rite of passage had three steps, 1) Separation from Society, 2) Inculcation-Transformation, and 3) Return to Society with a new status. A rite of passage is a little different than a rite of passage ritual. Those rituals tend to 1) dramatize new responsibilities, opportunities and dangers, 2) readjust participants to these changes, and 3) establish a solidarity and sacredness to common values. Each culture creates its own rites of passage ceremony or acquires one from a past tradition. Graduation ceremonies that we have today tend to find their origins back in the 12th century with scholastic monks in their ceremonial robes.

As a part of this graduation rite of passage there was a baccalaureate address, a farewell address delivered to graduates in the form of a sermon. Legend states that the baccalaureate address goes back to 1432 statute at Oxford that required each bachelor (one to receive a degree – a male – completing studies and now eligible for re-entrance into the real world – and marriage – hence the term “eligible bachelor”) to deliver a sermon in Latin as part of the academic exercise. Because the earliest universities in this country were founded primarily to educate ministers, the British practice of baccalaureate continued. Today, if it is done at all, it tends to be interfaith and celebrates the completion of an undergraduate academic career.

Traditionally commencement was when the students were handed their diplomas and degrees. However, the baccalaureate was to be highlight of the academic year

and a time to formally recognize achievement by students who have earned academic excellence. It is rooted in the perfection of Almighty God.

There are lots of things we could say about the origins of academic wear (like the pulpit gowns Presbyterian clergy often wear), class rings, "sheepskin," valedictorians, tassel-tossing and Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance." But as a pastor, I am drawn to the baccalaureate address or sermon. You still find it occurring quite a bit below the Mason-Dixon-line. However, much of our country, in an effort to be pluralistically inclusive, have abandoned this part of the rite of passage ceremony.

The baccalaureate address for my high school graduation at Grove City High School was delivered by my father. I was not present for it but later had the opportunity to read what he had to say. It was far more formative and profound than the commencement address delivered by a laudable giant of industry. The commencement address talked about working for the success of achievement whereas the baccalaureate sermon challenged scholars to Divine purpose, service to human kind, and values of integrity and hope rooted in the life of Jesus.

About five years ago I attended a baccalaureate service at one of our nation's universities. They had retained this tradition. But as students funneled a long line into the gothic chapel, they heard readings from an array of religious texts. There was something from the Bible and the Koran and readings from Confucius and others. So as not to have a religious bias the university selected a radio entertainer rather than a pastor type to deliver the baccalaureate sermon. His opening remarks stunned the faculty and received the applause of the students. "Who planned this service, really? All you really needed to read was something from the Bible." He also said,

"The man who speaks passionately about the pursuit of excellence is a man who is deeply aware of his own mediocrity. A person who does not know failure is a person with a poor sense of reality."

His goal was to help scholars readjust to the culture to which they were now returning. If we were to offer a baccalaureate message to all our graduates, we would have to search hard to improve on "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul and your neighbor as yourself," or (Phil 4:8-9 NIV) "Finally, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard - - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Prayerfully Pondering Warm Welcomes...

Bienvenue, Willkommen, Bien Venidos, Bem Vindas... No matter how you say it in any language, “welcome” is a marvelously open, inviting and warm wish.

Before I attended seminary, one of my responsibilities serving the Federal Government’s International Trade Administration was organizing export promotion conferences overseas. Because we wanted to positively and sincerely impress our potential clients, the opening reception for these conferences was a big deal. The food was scrumptious and beautifully presented, the libations were top drawer, the dignitaries were high-ranking, the venue was exquisite, the entertainment was sublime, and the parting gifts were luxurious. The welcome we want to extend to guests amongst us at each possible opportunity – not just Sunday worship – is equally positive and sincere.

How do we currently say welcome to our family of faith? Everything we do is an open invitation to guests and members to be present, participate, and partake of God’s gifts. From the moment somebody learns of us via a personal invitation, a special mailing to new residents, a newspaper blurb, web search, or wandering past our building, we open ourselves to guests. Our Steering Committee worked tirelessly for two years (can you believe the fire was May 20, 2004?) to restore and improve the welcoming qualities of our church home and now our Trustees have marvelously resumed the day to day responsibilities for maintenance and modification. Our Session has made improving the welcoming of guests one of the top priorities for us in 2006 and several pockets of activity jointly endeavor to do so. Our Deacons play a pivotal role in the greeting of guests on Sunday morning, the follow-up contact to prospective inquirers in their zones, the organizing of fellowship events open to members and guests, the presentation of memorial receptions on behalf of members, non-members and their guests, and the ongoing interaction with their zones.

I did not mention any individuals above. Why? The many ways each of us makes this congregation welcoming are as different as each of our fingerprints. Each of us puts God’s handprint upon our reaching out to guests.

Let me highlight one example. Prior to his joining God in the kingdom of heaven a little more than two years ago, Ernie Hugenbruch made a point of standing in the area between the Church Street and Locust Street entrances (otherwise known as the vestibule) and heartily welcoming anyone he did not recognize. He went out of his way to make the “stranger” feel less strange. He showed people information about the church, helped them meet other members, passed them to the Deacon Greeters to get a name tag, showed them where their children could attend Sunday School, and found any number of creatively personal ways he could make our house of worship a home to that day’s guests.

How can we say “welcome” better? The answer to that question is an individual as we are. Is God calling you to help us welcome guests? Do you enjoy helping others? Do you love God and our church and want others to know about that joy? Have you been wondering how God could use you in a way that did not require a three-year leadership commitment? We welcome all your ideas – let me know about them!

One of our ideas is to create a Welcoming Team for Sunday mornings. Kris Hoppe, a member of Session, is excited to organize a rotating schedule of people who would like to put their own personal touch on “being Ernie Hugenbruch” and welcoming guests to our church home. Are you that person? Let me (586-5688 x32) or Kris (383-0209) know.

And in all these welcoming endeavors, may God be with you.

Go with God,

Carrie

These are the lectionary texts for the month of June. We welcome you to study in advance of their being incorporated into the Sunday worship services.

Week of June 4 – Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Week of June 11 – Isa. 6:1-8; Ps. 29; Rom. 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Week of June 18 – 1 Sam. 15:34-16:13; Ps. 20
2 Cor. 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Week of June 25 – 1 Sam. 17L 1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49
and Ps. 9:9-20; or 1 Sam. 17:57-18:5,
10-16 and Ps. 133; 2 Cor. 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41



SUNDAY SUPER SERIES - We have two remaining sessions in this provocative series. On May 21, Kay Saxum will present a program on the **STEPHEN MINISTRY** at First Presbyterian. A short film will augment the discussion on this confidential, quiet, "one on one" ministry. Come and broaden your horizons and gain insights. On Sunday, June 4th, Deputy Dan Lyon, from the Monroe County Sheriff's Dept. will be talking on **SENIOR SAFETY/SECURITY**. Dan has spoken to a number of community groups, throughout Monroe County, and is an entertaining, enthusiastic, and sought after speaker. He will have "something for everybody" and he is practical and down to earth! Both sessions are in the second floor **CHAPEL**, immediately to your right when exiting the elevator, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, following Fellowship "Hour" coffee. Try not to miss these two sessions.



...from Sandy's Desk

Summer time at First Presbyterian Pittsford is a duo-opportunity for all of us to "step up to the plate". If you've ever had a vision of being that team player who takes the bat and hits the one that brings the three on base home and wins the great game, **NOW IS YOUR CHANCE**.

This summer will be a crucial time to state to our surrounding community that First is back, better than ever. You are our living Welcome Mat. You are the sign over the door that says to passersby, **OPEN and YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

How can we make a difference in our new program year which will begin in just a few short months in September? Here are two positive needs:

First, visitors who are with us to find out more about who we are, are more likely to return and stay with us if their children are welcomed, cared for and taught lovingly. Our 9:30 am services desperately needs a companion children's program. We have terrific facilities, activities and materials. **ALL WE NEED IS YOU!!** Please sign-up to be a classroom presence for just one Sunday this summer. See Sandy or leave a message at the office.

Second, we are going to offer a family adventure this summer which will help our young people and their families and young families in the Pittsford area communities, enjoy First Presbyterian and learn about our Lord as they journey through C.S. Lewis' Narnia for one week this summer. We hope this experience will promote a healthy registration for our **LOGOS** and **CHURCH SCHOOL** fall programs.

So how can you help make this happen?

1. Look around your neighborhood and tell your neighbors about it. Put up flyers in your neighborhood or local favorite business bulletin boards. Invite others to get involved. Put First Pres.'s best foot forward with your smile.
2. Pitch in to help with one of the many, many small and large tasks that will make the **SUMMER ADVENTURE** happen.

We hope this program will offer the family and friends fellowship that will say to the participants and our outside community: "First Presbyterian Pittsford is a place where the love of God and the enjoyment of each other is the place to be!" Can you help us make that statement? Sandy will be asking **YOU** to help. Please be ready to say **YES I CAN!!!**

NON-PARKING IN THE LOCUST STREET

LOT – Limited spaces are available in our Locust Street parking lot. During these beautiful spring days let us minister to those with more limited mobility by making use of Pittsford's public lot like the one behind the Library and CNB Bank. This would give us more exercise, make us more alert for worship, and people needing to be closer would have easier access to the church building and sanctuary.

YOUTH NEWS

I am writing this, now realizing that this article is for our June Newsbrief. I cannot believe that summer is already coming upon us. Our students are taking AP exams, finishing up musicals, in full swing of their particular sport season, and getting itchy for the end of school. With the summer comes a lot of great things at First Presbyterian!!!



Some of our guys just had a great campout with Matt Wahl, Lucien Rouse, and Tom Gartland in Webster. They played capture the flag (and the adults won EVERY TIME!), had s'mores, and spent



some awesome time together. Our senior high girls are having a sleepover on June 9th and all of our 8th grade girls are welcome to attend! You'll be senior highers next year! The junior high girls sleepover is on June 16th and guess what 6th grade girls?! You are invited!!! Both sleepovers will be a fun time with movies, girl stuff, chocolate, and ice cream! Come and hang out together!

We are also gearing up for our summer missions trips! A group of our senior high students will be heading down to Wilmington, North Carolina July 1st-9th for our annual Work Camp trip. There we will be constructing wheelchair ramps, painting, yard work, and spending time with some incredible new people. Some of

our junior high students will be embarking on their first mission trip ever during the week of July 16th-22nd to York, Pennsylvania. There they will be participating in a "Week of Hope," a mission trip focused on community service to others. Our students, with about 200 others, will be running sports camps for kids, spending time in nursing homes with residents, and other awesome things. These trips are a great opportunity for students to put their faith into action, showing and sharing the love of Jesus Christ in a new environment with new faces. Please continue to pray for them and our fundraising!

Sign ups for Kingdom Bound, which is August 6th-10th this year, will be starting in June. Keep that week open if you would be excited



to attend 5 days of fun rides, fantastic concerts, camping, and great times with your friends! Also on the horizon is a weekly hang out/Bible study for our senior highers starting this fall. If you're interested, keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

Calendars are available in the Narthex for all of our summer events! Make sure you sign up with Niki in the church office or via email/cell phone/text message/instant messenger/smoke signals. For those of you who will be gone all summer at camps, family houses, or other reasons, may God bless you with an incredible summer and please know that you are missed!

Niki

****Up and coming****

May 21st: Car Wash for Mission Trip fundraising! 11:30am-2:30pm in Locust St. Lot

June 9th: Sr. High Girls Sleepover! 8pm-8am...Youth room

June 16th: Jr. High Girls Sleepover! 8pm-8am...Youth room

June 18th: Senior Recognition Sunday! 10am Service

LOGOS
from Sylvia Fix

Putting God First 2006-2007

It has been our experience that when you put God first, everything seems to fall into place.

Join us every Wednesday 4-7 PM, ages Kindergarten through Grade 6 for 23 weeks of Play/Craft, Bible Study, Choir and Dinner. You never know what to expect Surprise Nights, Carnivals, Hot Tubs and exciting mission opportunities.

Logos is all about having fun and establishing lasting relationships.

For more information call Susie Wahl 248-3479.

See you in September!



Come Pray On Our Team!!!

The First Presbyterian Prayer Support team would like to see some new faces! Our prayer team meets at 4:00 PM on Tuesdays. We receive prayer requests on the yellow pew cards collected each Sunday and add to those, the concerns gather through the week from conversations and phone calls. Our small group places these prayer requests in a notebook and each entry is lifted in prayer for one month, or unless the person making the request asks to have it removed sooner. In a second notebook, we list the many positive outcomes and resolutions to the prayer concerns received and special thanksgivings. From these lists, a prayer sheet is made available for the congregation to pick up and take home for private prayer times. No confidential requests will appear on this sheet.

Our team gathers for one hour each week, to share a Scripture passage, add new prayer requests and lift the concerns of our congregation, our friends and extended families in prayer. We are also praying that the Lord will increase our team in numbers. We hope to make it more possible, for anyone who may feel called to join us in this confidential and important

ministry. And so we invite ***YOU*** to join us on **Tuesdays at 4:00 PM in the Library.**

If you have questions about this ministry and would like to know more, please feel free to speak to Carrie Mitchell, Jim Higbee, Kay Saxum, Jane Hunter, Carol Tiemann or Sandy Pacyga.



MEET YOUR COUNTY LEGISLATOR!

Bill Smith (R from district 10) and Travis Heider (R from district 14) will participate in an open forum in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, June 20 between 7 and 8:30 PM. Our church is hosting this event that is cosponsored by several faith-based, non-partisan and not-for-profit groups including the Greater Rochester Community of Churches and Church Women United. This is an excellent opportunity for us to learn of our legislators' priorities as well as the current issues they face and for us to communicate our concerns to them. Questions? Please call Carrie Mitchell at 586-5688 x 32.



OPTIMISTS

The Optimist picnic will be held Friday, June 2, at the North Lodge in King's Bend Park, off Jefferson Road in Pittsford. We will meet at the usual time of 6:15 PM and it is requested that you bring your own table service. Traditional picnic fare will be featured for the price of \$5. Tickets will be available between service on May 14, 21 and 28.



REMINDER

When paying on various pledges, it would be a **big** help if you could write separate checks for each fund.

Thank you,
Janet Travis, Financial Secretary

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

from Trudy Bartleson, M & E Committee

Barbara Letty Coe

It is a great pleasure indeed to have Barbara transfer back from Chili First Presbyterian Church. Her adult children are Kaarin Coe, a social worker, US Navy, Sicily and Miske Coe, Brighton. Her husband, Robert Hunter, has four adult children & six grandchildren. Barbara is currently a seminary student at Northeastern Seminary, Roberts Wesleyan college, North Chili. In the Fall she hopes to come “under care” of the Session at Pittsford and the Presbytery of Genesee Valley’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry. She enjoys gardening, crafting, gourmet cooking and travel. PO Box 24799, Rochester 14624; Phone: 889-4807.



Nicole Brodeur

A very warm welcome to our Niki who heads up the Youth Ministry in our Church. She has come to us from Nashua, NH, currently living at 152 Greystone Lane, Apt. 16, Rochester 14618. Phone: 413-1107. Her hobbies are movies, music, reading, biking, hiking and working with youth.



Walt and Ellie Scott

We are very happy to have Walt & Ellie join our church family. They have three adult children: Richard, Nancy and Patricia. Walt is retired from Eastman Kodak and Ellie is retired from American Airlines. Walt is on the Keuka College Board of Trustees and Ellie’s hobby is art. They come from Penn Yan and now reside at 10 Eliot Circle, Pittsford 14534. Phone: 267-7040.

Ann Marie & Hezekiah Simmons

We are delighted to have Ann Marie and “Hezie” among our newest members. Their grown children are Gregory and Jennifer. Ann Marie’s work is at Canandaigua VA Medical Center; Hezie’s is with Monroe Community College. They both love travel and reading and community service. They reside at 7938 Oak Brook Circle, Pittsford 14534. Phone: 924-3794



Christine and Annika Temp

It is a joy to have Christine and her daughter, Annika join us. Christine and husband John have a son as well, John-Henrik. Christine is an “at home Mom” and her profession was as a nurse who now very much enjoys gardening, knitting and cooking. Their address is 8 Sutherland Street, Pittsford 14534. Phone: 248-2568.



Thomas and Nancy Walters

We are so glad to welcome Nancy and Tom, who have raised a wonderful family of six! They are David, Sharon, Robert, Laurie, John and Janet. Tom is an electric train collector and is retired. They both are collectors of ceramic buildings and figures. They both also enjoy gardening. Nancy also spends happy hours sewing. They live at 17 Kerrygold Way, Pittsford 14534. Phone: 381-8748.

Mission Trip: It's not too late to sign up to go on our mission trip to Mozambique in August. It's also not too late to participate financially in this mission to build a new church for our Presbyterians in Africa. The list below represents the items that are needed for the construction that you can sponsor. Please contact the church office and let know what you would like to purchase. Your mission team will take care of delivery and installation! With your support a new church will be dedicated on September 10, 2006. Thank you.

MATERIALS	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL
Trusses	15	\$300	\$4500
Single Windows	2	\$250	\$500
Double Windows	5	\$500	\$2500
Single Doors	3	\$400	\$1200
Double Doors	2	\$600	\$1200
Roofing	100	\$20	\$2000
Lime	160	\$4	\$640
Cement	320	\$5	\$1600
Roofing Nails	50 lb		\$50
Bolts and Nails	50 lb		\$50
Rebar	100	\$5	\$500
Brick	15,000	\$.50	\$7500
TOTAL			\$22,240

The Ribaue Congregation will provide 7500 bricks
 The Ribaue Congregation will provide the sand
 The Ribaue Congregation will provide the water
 The local Synod and Presbytery will provide the gravel